

Session 17-02 Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order on March 16, 2017 at 5:32 pm by Vice Chair Deb Lowney at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS FAIR, SHARPE, ARCHIBALD, ROEDL, HART, HARRALD
AND ASHMUN

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS STEFFY (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGEBRETSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was a no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS

RECONSIDERATION

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on February 16, 2017
- B. Memorandum PARC 17-11 Request to Expend Commission Funds for Art Information Plaques

Vice Chair Lowney requested a motion to approve or amend the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Archibald requested Item B. Memorandum PARC 17-11 be moved to New Business.

Vice Chair Lowney requested a motion to approve or amend the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Hart stated she had questions and or corrections on the minutes. She requested Item. A, Minutes of February 16, 2017 moved to pending business.

Vice Chair Lowney noted that since there were no additional items under the Consent agenda for approval or amendment they will move on to the next item.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Staff was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

B. Parks Management Report – Angie Otteson

Staff was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

C. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary review of her report. She provided additional information on the following:

- No further information available on the Mariner Park signage
- USFWS came up with a slightly different and final plan for Bishop’s Beach signage and were ordered she will report the costs to the commission when available.
 - o Recommend using the same signage at Mariner park
 - o Requested the commissioners to review and comment on the signage once installed at Bishop’s Beach
- Resolution to purchase land for Jack Gist park was approved as recommended by the commission
- The Beach Policy was adopted as amended
- Council Approved the recommendation for the Teshio Sister City Art Collection
- Reviewing the Homer Non-motorized Transportation Plan will be conducted as a group and showing the plan electronically instead of print copy
 - o Commissioners to review the plan and submit comments, questions or notes for the April meeting
 - o Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained the process that will be used for amending the Non-motorized Transportation Plan
- Budget Review for April meeting if available
 - o The new Finance Director starts March 20, 2017
- Council scheduled the June 12, 2017 meeting for presentation on Public Art
- April 22nd is Clean-up Day – this conflicts with numerous other events through the city
- Shorebird weekend is May 4-7th

There was a brief discussion on handling the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan in the same format and talk about the trails within Karen Hornaday Park under the Non-motorized Trails Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum PARC 17-07 re: Request for Donation to Homer Animal Friends

Vice Chair Lowney requested this item. She provided a brief synopsis of the background.

Cook Inletkeeper offered to match \$500 donation to provide another \$1000 for receptacles/dispensers and supplies.

LOWNEY/ASHMUN – MOVED TO DONATE \$500 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF DOGGIE BAG DISPENSERS, RECEPTACLES AND SUPPLIES.

Discussion ensued on the prior donation match in 2016, that if it has not been expended it may be premature to provide additional funds until some of the current funding is spent.

Vice Chair Lowney called for the vote.

VOTE. NO. ASHMUN, ROEDL, HARRALD, ARCHIBALD, HART, FAIR, SHARP
VOTE. YES. LOWNEY.

Motion failed.

B. Memorandum PARC 17-08 re: Parks, Art & Culture Day

Vice Chair Lowney read the title into the record and noted that she requested this item on the agenda. She requested discussion on holding a Parks, Art & Culture Day since they are not going to have a Trails Symposium. She explained how the former Annual Parks Day evolved into the Trails Symposium to highlight another aspect of the commission. She opined that since the commission has inherited the arts that maybe they can do something to recognize that aspect or they can conduct a parks day.

Discussion evolved on conducting a Parks Day focusing on visiting several parks and getting the community excited about the parks and culminating in a big bar-b-que on the Spit. The lack of personal knowledge of the commissioners on art and culture, limited time, developing a curriculum, budget, commissioner participation, conducting a sponsored art walk focusing on public art, starting small and focusing on a park that a group is trying to fixup, incorporate the art community in the Park Day, event to celebrate the Sister City display at the Pratt.

Staff recommended postponing further discussion and allow the Clerk to talk with the Pratt regarding the Sister City Art Collection and that it would be easier to promote something that someone else is doing than conducting something ourselves.

Vice Chair Lowney agreed and expressed that it would require commissioners to meet outside of these meetings to structure what is to happen; she likes the art walk but has concerns with moving a body of people around, making people aware of what is happening and center it around what is going on at the Pratt; Bayview they have heard from them or about that project for at least two years now and it would be nice to at least show some support if not get some work completed up there. Time is running short in getting this publicized.

ARCHIBALD/SHARP – MOVED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION TO ALLOW STAFF TO DETERMINE WHAT THE PRATT PLANS AND A STRATEGY ON HOW THE COMMISSION WANTS TO HANDLE THIS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Minutes for the regular meeting on February 16, 2017

Vice Chair Lowney read the title into the record and invited Commissioner Hart to state her corrections.

Commissioner Hart noted that in the attendance Commissioner Ashmun was shown as absent and present and she believed Commissioner Ashmun was absent. The next issue was within the Strategic Plan on page 6, third line first paragraph, is that .35 or .25. Staff clarified that it should be .25.

FAIR/ASHMUN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum PARC 17-09 re: 2017 Land Allocation Plan

Vice Chair Lowney read the title in to the record and provided a brief explanation on the process. She also expressed that she would like to limit the discussion on this item to 15 minutes for expediency.

Commissioner Ashmun advocated for the commission to consider the recommendation by Staff, that being provide some feedback to staff whether the land allocation plan is a productive use of commission time or if the commission would prefer a short report on city lands each year. She believed they should review that before jumping into the review of individual properties.

Commission Hart had questions on two properties.

Commissioner Harrald opined that while it is nice to see all the properties she felt it would be better to see a list of higher priority properties.

Vice Chair Lowney clarified that they will not go page by page but allow each commissioner to present the properties that they had questions or concerns on individual pages of the plan. She went on to further note that she finds value in reviewing the properties annually and being allowed to submit recommendations to Council on the use of each these parcels.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained that while this process or exercise is specifically for those lands listed in section A and primarily would be leased and or offered for sale. This is not used for management of city owned lands. So she would appreciate any comments first on Section A Leased Lands. Then comments regarding recommendations on management.

The commissioners discussed prior processes that may assist them in the future with the recommendations; recommendations made on parcels in the past to reserve for parklands; what benefits that the commission recommendations can make for leased lands. The following was discussed or recommended specifically:

Page E-6 Parcel #17502056 Sell the parcel to the neighboring land owners

Ms. Engebretsen explained that this parcel has a clouded title and cannot be sold due to the requirements of the subdivision and it requires that each property owner must release their interest. Sometime the city obtains land through foreclosure and has “weird” strings attached to them.

Vice Chair Lowney objected to the sale of land since the commission is to protect and protect green space.

Commissioner Hart noted that with this particular land the only people who could use this park unless the subdivision property owners signed a release were those same property owners. Ms. Engebretsen agreed and stated that the city was not going to expend tax payer dollars on property that was restricted as such.

Commissioner Sharp did not have a recommendations for leased land. He questioned the parcel listed on page C-5 regarding changing the designation. Staff explained that the parcel FAA was designated by Council for a Community Center.

Commissioner's Ashmun and Roedl had no recommendations.

Commissioner Harrald questioned the lot that has been eroding away on the Spit. Ms. Engebretsen explained that the lot was privately owned and there is no action that the city can take regarding clean-up of said parcel.

Vice Chair Lowney recalled a past discussion on this parcel regarding offering assistance and that was the end of that.

Commissioner Archibald commented on the property shown on page E-19 and creating a parking area for access to the beach. It was noted that it was designated as a park currently. Commissioner Archibald hoped that it stayed that way. Vice Chair Lowney supported Commissioner Archibald comments and then provided additional clarification on the location of this parcel for Commissioner Sharp.

Vice Chair Lowney questioned the status of the HERC building since the Council had the deed restriction removed she expressed concerns on the designation for the parcel as being open and the prospect if the Public Safety Building project goes away that the land would be used for something other than recreation. Ms. Engebretsen explained that if the property and facility are not used for a Public Safety facility then it would be up to Council or a future Council to change the designation.

Vice Chair Lowney wanted to have the property designated for recreation and education. Ms. Engebretsen explained that Council has the ability to make changes by resolution which is just 4 votes and 1 meeting. In response to Vice Chair Lowney's suggestion to submit a recommendation to Council on the use of the HERC building if it is not the site for a Public Safety facility Ms. Engebretsen stated that if there is no issue on the table then you are making recommendations on a something that is not ripe for a decision, there is a disconnect.

Commissioner Sharpe suggested that they talk face to face to Council regarding their concerns. Ms. Engebretsen explained that previously this commission at almost every meeting for a year was before Council to speak about this building and Council has clearly stated and directed this commission that they did not want to be presented with further recommendations, that Council stated that this site will be a Public Safety facility. Ms. Engebretsen explained that the Council will be appointing a Task Force and it will be up to that body to submit recommendations to Council on the project.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that they had enough applicants to appoint the task force.

Vice Chair Lowney opined that the commission should keep this on their radar and that the property has greater value in her opinion to the community for recreation and education than a Public Safety Facility. She additionally expressed the inability to assist the property owner in cleaning up their property on the spit.

Commissioner Sharpe commented on page C-9, advocated for keeping this lot since they could use it for another purpose. Staff explained that this lot was to be sold however this lot will be offered for consideration of a new police station location by the newly formed Task Force. It was further noted that the sale of this parcel was to replace funds used from the HART fund.

Vice Chair Lowney expressed concern that previously the commission has requested notice of parcels for sale and they get this opportunity once per year with the Land Allocation Plan. Staff provided the information on the status and current situation of the two parcels involved in the potential use as a site for the new Police Station. Vice Chair Lowney further expressed her point that the decisions and concerns from the commission be moved forward on these parcels.

Ms. Engebretsen interjected that it will be up to the new Task Force to submit a recommendation to Council and then that will go on a ballot before city residents so it will be no earlier than October or later before this issue is before Council and depending on what the recommendation is and the results of the election will be when Council may revisit the issue of selling the lot in question. Vice Chair Lowney stated that if the Police Station goes on the lot next to the Post Office then that will leave the HERC in limbo. Ms. Engebretsen responded that Council will address that issue after the October election, they are a long way from there and added that a more immediate action would be a budget related constraint with regards to the HERC.

Commissioner Hart departed the meeting at 6:10 p.m. She also noted that she will not be at the April meeting.

B. Memorandum PARC 17-11 re: Request to Expend Commission Funds for Art Information Plaques

Vice Chair Lowney read the title into the record. Commissioner Archibald requested this pulled from the consent agenda. He wanted to know if there were any remaining funds in the Public Arts and how many identification plaques they are behind.

A discussion ensued on the cost and how many

ASHMUN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR AN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF \$50 FOR ART IDENTIFICATION PLAQUES FROM THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION FUNDS.

ASHMUN/FAIR - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT FOR 2017 FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$50 TO CATCHUP WITH THE BACKLOG

There was a brief discussion on the amendment regarding the amount being enough.

VOTE. (Amendment) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Lowney requested the Clerk to read the motion as amended, the Clerk complied stating, “MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR AN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF \$50 FOR ART IDENTIFICATION PLAQUES FROM THE PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION FUNDS AND PROVIDING A ONE TIME INCREASE OF \$50 FOR 2017.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. (Main) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commission Annual Calendar 2017

Vice Chair Lowney reviewed the items on the Annual Calendar for the April agenda. Commissioner Harrald confirmed that the Budget review was scheduled for June.

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2017

Vice Chair Lowney requested volunteers for April and May Council meetings.

- Commissioner Archibald volunteered for April 10th
- Commissioner Ashmun volunteered for April 24th
- Commissioner Sharpe volunteered for May 30th
- Commissioner Harrald volunteered for May 8th

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen welcomed Ingrid and its been awhile thanks for your work tonight.

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that there will two gift donations before the commission if the applications are received timely. One is for the Boathouse Pavilion of a Salmon that accepts donations and the other was a donation to the Animal Shelter of a painting. She reiterated that there is a policy in place to accepting donations of artwork that was approved by Council.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Sharp commented that there is a lot of art going on in the community and he participated in a musical event at the High School and another one called Charlie Brown, he will be meeting with Angie regarding Mariner Park and he also looked for the red bird sign and could not locate one and would appreciate the location of a sign.

Ms. Engebretsen stated it was the Birding Hot Spot Signage in response to questioning looking and comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Fair wanted to advocate again for the Sister City Art being relocated to the Pratt since they appear to be very receptive and in review of the Art Catalogue there are approximately 39 pieces.

Commissioner Ashmun thanked everyone for all the work they have been doing, apologized for missing meetings and it is apparent that she is not an integral cog to the wheel since things have been progressing rapidly.

Commissioner Roedl apologized for his tardiness as he has no excuse other than not paying attention to the clock. He then asked about using the HART funds to construct sidewalks up Svedlund and wondered if he missed that.

Vice Chair Lowney commented on the long term discussion on that project and the topic has come up at the Symposium but the group has focused more on greenway trails and other than having a strong push on getting it done, she has spoken to the City Planner Rick Abboud and unless with a strong advocacy from the public it is a long way off.

Ms. Engebretsen explained that the Sidewalk and major road construction projects the City uses other funds to match they do not fund these types of projects on their own. Further discussion ensued on the probability and that it is not as simple as constructing a sidewalk along Main Street/Svedlund. There is more to the project than the sidewalk, overhead transmission lines would have to be relocated, etc. Commissioner Roedl was directed that advocacy was needed to Council, and the State Legislature on allocating funding for this project.

Commissioner Harrald said it was great to be back and wanted to get word to the Homer Animal Friends and Cook Inlet Keeper and reassure them that the commission does want to help them out and match funds and that they need to come back before the commission when they are ready for additional funds. Next she advocated for the Commission to attend the Homer Hockey Association and that this was a building that was started with no plan in place with regard to the previous concerns expressed on SPARC facility this would be a good opportunity to touch base with people who inherited a facility that did not have a 10 year plan and is the only facility in the State that does not have monetary support from the State, Borough or City.

Commissioner Archibald commented that he echoed Commissioner Harrald's comments on the doggie bags, and receptacles and will be having a glass of wine with another March baby.

Commissioner Lowney apologized for overlooking staff comments and going out of order. She looked forward to seeing the picture of the donation of the Salmon. She missed a lot of fall and it was a bummer to miss out on the last meeting. She welcomed Ingrid and felt that this is such a powerful commission. She looks forward to seeing some of the plan for Woodard Creek moving forward. Mariner Park she felt that they really need to assist and traveling around the city really looking for signage and the delay in getting the signage installed since approved is frustrating and there is so little definition out at Mariner Park for regulatory signage. She has purposely attended all meetings of SPARC just to keep herself abreast of what is going on and the city has donated a large amount of money with the expectation that they will not be involved with running it but she believes that there is a public expectation of what goes on in that facility and so one of her greatest concerns is that some of the public needs do get addressed there. It is tough. That facility is not going to a facility that provides answers to all the community desires and the commission needs to keep their ears tuned on how they may be able to assist SPARC. She noted that the SPARC will have a soft opening on April 1, 2017 and that they are selling floor tiles to be used for a mural to raise money. Great meeting chairing a meeting is a lot harder than it looks.

Commissioner Roedl offered some information on the flooring that was donated to SPARC.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Vice Chair Lowney adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved:_____